

# GAIL HEIDEL

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## Image List:

Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012

Takings is a site-specific and interactive installation sited at Clay Art Center in Port Chester, NY that critiques the use of eminent domain while promoting an emergent system. This system references a Jane Jacobs model for self-organized communities that grants agency to the viewer. A sculptural "key" is provided to highlight the metaphors of transition and replacement used repeatedly in this exhibition.

When entering the gallery, the viewer is confronted with a boarded up architectural fragment. The boards are comprised of planks of plywood and ceramic castings of shipping pallets. The castings highlight the economic motivation of developments and how the Takings Clause denies access to the displaced.

As the viewer enters the main space of the gallery they see a large wooden cube. This cube is both the historic walled city that provided safety for its citizens and the contemporary construction site that keeps cities in constant flux. The doorway is sealed off with a labor-intensive terra cotta and cable tie fence. By placing the fence across this entrance, it confronts issues of access to a space intended for public use. Throughout the exhibition, viewers are invited to take one link from the fence by cutting the cable ties. Through this community effort the viewer will be able to reclaim access and enter the space. During this process the viewer is also invited to climb the ladder for an aerial view of the suspended ceramic modulators hung inside the cube. These modulators serve as a metaphor of the emergent system that self-organizes communities and a bridge that connects the individual to the community.

01. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
View when entering the gallery.

02. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Sculptural key located on far wall.

03. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Detail of sculptural key.

04. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Reflection of terra cotta and cable tie fence.

05. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Terra cotta and cable tie fence.

06. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Aerial view of the suspended ceramic modulators hung inside the cube.

07. Takings, ceramic, wood, wire rope, found ladder, cable ties, collage, oval threaded connectors, wire nut connectors, 8 x 21 x 31', 2012  
Viewer clipping zip tie on fence.

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*Change of Use* is an installation comprised of ceramic modular units suspended with wire rope sited in The Factory at Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts. The placement of each unit was determined by the interior architecture of the building. The outcome produced an interconnected system that wove itself through the space. This system uses the symbol of the bridge and metaphors of transition to reference the history of the space as chicken coop, brick factory and artist studio. The building's evolution continues with this installation.

08. Change of Use, ceramic, wire rope, 20 x 40 x 10', 2012  
Overall view

09. Change of Use, ceramic, wire rope, 20 x 40 x 10', 2012  
Detail

10. Change of Use, ceramic, wire rope, 20 x 40 x 10', 2012  
Detail